

**Regular Council Meeting
August 22, 2013**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Barley called to order the regularly scheduled council meeting of August 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Council members Elizabeth Brannon, Ray Jackson, Jennifer Laird, Janice McLean and Harold Taunton.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of past minutes

Councilman Taunton motioned to approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of August 13, 2013 and the budget workshop of August 12, 2013 as presented, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

1. Planning Report

Latilda Hughes was unable to attend the council meeting. Robin Haynes requested the planning items be carried over to the next meeting.

A. 1st public hearing – Military sustainability EAR-based amendment

Councilwoman McLean motioned to approve the transmittal of the Military Sustainability portion of the EAR-based Amendment (as attached) with a draft resolution, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council comment or discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

**B. Floodplain manager appointment &
C. Floodplain manager training**

Mayor Barley appointed Latilda Hughes as the City of Freeport's Floodplain manager. Latilda informed the council that she was researching training opportunities and would update the council at a later time. No further action was taken.

D. New resident information packet

Latilda told the council that she was working on a "New Resident Packet" and requested comments and suggestions from all meeting attendees.

E. Planning Board appointments

Councilwoman McLean motioned to appoint Mr. Russ Beaty as her planning board representative, Councilman Taunton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

Councilwoman Brannon motioned to appoint Ms. Jan Hooks as her planning board representative, Councilwoman Laird seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

Councilwoman Laird motioned to appoint Ms. Sue Ann Cagle as her planning board representative, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

Councilman Taunton motioned to appoint Mr. Mark Miller as his planning board representative, Councilwoman Laird seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

F. Upcoming meeting update

Latilda informed the council that the Walton County Extension Office will be using the City Hall conference room for their “Freeze the Gain Challenge” weigh in/weigh out site In November and again in January.

She also mentioned that the Okaloosa-Walton Traffic Planning Council will be allowing the City of Freeport to appoint a voting member to the council. More information will be provided at a later date.

2. Legal Matters

No items were presented.

3. Fire Department Report

No report was given.

Councilwoman Laird motioned to approve the fire chief to apply for a SAFER grant, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

4. Park Department report

Shane Supple gave a brief park report including maintenance items, upcoming events being held at the Freeport Regional Sports Complex and meter damage caused by a lightning strike.

A. Pool hour extension request

Councilman Taunton motioned to approve closing the pool for the season after Labor Day (September 2), Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

5. Engineer report

(New business item #2) - Cliff Knauer, representing Preble-Rish, gave a brief presentation on two possible grant opportunities:

- Northwest Florida Water Management District will be opening up grant opportunities for water distribution projects, giving priority to RACEC districts
- The Florida State Revolving Fund (SRF) is a possible avenue for receiving up to a 67% grant with a 33% match for the expansion of sewer service in the Black Creek area, with the ability to demonstrate an existing public health hazard. Applications are accepted in June of each year.

Public comments included:

- Ronnie Brannon asked if the grant could be applied toward connection fees, with remaining balances to be added to bill.
- Councilman Jackson stated that he has spoken with People's National Bank and they will provide loan services for sewer connection.
- Mayor Barley stated that Council had been considering lowering the sewer connection fees, possibly offering City financing, adding payments to the monthly utility bills.
- Latilda Hughes requested additional information about the possibility of using "in-kind" services as a portion of the City's share of funding.

IV. Old Business

1. Schedule budget workshop

Councilman Taunton motioned to approve scheduling budget workshops on August 26 and August 28 at 7:00 pm, Councilwoman Laird seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

2. Workshop request – commercial impact fee

Council agreed to table an impact fee workshop until a later date.

3. Council update – dirt hauling for ball fields

Councilman Taunton mentioned that he has spoken with Walton County Public works. The request will probably need to be taken before the Board of County commissioners. He will keep the council updated as he gets additional information.

4. Options presented during Walton County Joint meeting

A. Bay area sewer loan

Councilman Taunton motioned to table discussion on the bay area sewer loan until after the situation with the fire department had been worked out, Councilwoman Laird seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

B. Fire department funding

Councilwoman McLean stated that basically the City had a couple options regarding the fire department – either keep the department and withdraw to the City limits, or merge with the County.

The County Board of Commissioners had provided a list of options that they were considering for fire coverage, but none of them included funding for the Freeport fire department. After short discussion, Councilman Jackson motioned to table the item to a later meeting, Councilwoman McLean seconded. There was no additional public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

5. Replacement of pumps in master lift station

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve the replacement of pumps in the master lift station by Gulf Coast Pump and Equipment, as proposed, for \$28,687.00, Councilman Taunton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

V. New Business

1. Rental fee waivers

Councilwoman Laird motioned to approve rental fee waivers for use of the community center for the following groups: Walton County/workshop, Walton County Sheriff's Department/Town Hall meeting, and American Legion/monthly meeting for six months, Councilman Jackson seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

2. Sewer expansion for Black Creek area presentation

Item covered under Engineer Report.

3. Advertise for wastewater field maintenance position

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve advertising for a wastewater field maintenance position, Councilman Taunton seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 5:0.

VI. Council Business Not On Agenda

No additional items were presented.

VII. Public Comment

Public comments included:

- Friday McCormick requested information on the City's nuisance ordinance
- Dan Masengale stated that the City was in the driver's seat regarding the sewer and fire and encouraged them to take their time in making a decision.
- Request for council packet information, as well as agenda, to be placed on website
- Eleanor Turner questioned difference in pricing of inside/outside city limits and septic tank closing fees

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Russ Barley, Mayor

Janice McLean, Council President

APPROVED